

JUSTIFICATION  
FOR AN EXCEPTION TO FAIR OPPORTUNITY

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)  
Office of Acquisition Operations  
Technology Acquisition Center  
23 Christopher Way  
Eatontown, NJ 07724
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a firm-fixed-price delivery order issued under a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) V Governmentwide Acquisition Contract (GWAC)
3. Description of the Supplies or Services: VA Office of Information and Technology, Service Delivery and Engineering has a requirement to procure Vitria BusinessWare (BW) Version 4 software licensing for Red Hat Linux. This Vitria messaging software licenses provide application connectivity and integration and enable financial electronic data interchanges between the application and the Portal for Electronic Third Party Insurance Recovery (PETIR) located at the Corporate Data Center (CDC) in Austin, Texas. PETIR ensures electronic transactions such as healthcare claims, insurance verifications, outpatient pharmacy claims, and other related transactions flow from/to VA Medical Centers to/from Healthcare Clearinghouses (HCCs) and 3rd Party Payers such as insurance companies. All software shall be delivered electronically within 30 days of award.
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting an exception to fair opportunity is Section 41 U.S.C. 4106(c)(2) as implemented by Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 16.505(b)(2)(i)(B), entitled "Only one awardee is capable of providing the supplies or services required at the level of quality required because the supplies or services ordered are unique or highly specialized."
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The VA Financial Services Center (FSC) messaging system application infrastructure is currently based upon Vitria software, which utilizes its own proprietary software code that no other brand of software can access. Access to the proprietary source code is required to ensure all of the software maintenance, updates, and patches are properly configured to the fielded software. Vitria software is also required to ensure seamless electronic data interchanges with the payers as the PETIR infrastructure is also based on Vitria software. Utilizing a software other than Vitria would require a complete redesign and integration of PETIR and introduce delays in transmitting and receiving insurance billing and insurance payor information as no other brand software is compatible or interoperable with the current Vitria infrastructure.
6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted, details of which are in section 8 of this justification. This effort did not yield any additional sources that can meet the Government's requirements. In accordance with FAR 5.301 and

16.505(b)(2)(ii)(D), notice of award for this action will be synopsisized and this justification will be made publicly available on the Federal Business Opportunities Page within 14 days of award. In accordance with FAR 16.505(a)(4)(iii)(A), this justification will be posted with the request for quotation on the NASA SEWP V GWAC to notify interested parties.

7. Actions to Increase Competition: A competitive acquisition titled, Enterprise Message Infrastructure, is currently underway to find a solution to replace the Vitria messaging system infrastructure. This Vitria software is required until this new solution is fully implemented in late Fiscal Year 2017.

8. Market Research: The Government's technical experts conducted market research in June 2016 by reviewing similar software products to ascertain if these items could meet or be modified to meet VA's requirements. Specifically, the Government's technical experts researched the following products; Intersystem Ensemble, Microsoft BizTalk, and MuleSoft. Although these vendors' products possess similar capabilities only Vitria or an authorized reseller are capable of providing software that ensures seamless electronic data interchanges with the third party payers.

Additionally, market research was conducted in May and June 2016 utilizing the NASA SEWP V GWAC Provider Look-up tool and a Request for Information (RFI) via the NASA SEWP V GWAC to ascertain the extent of limited competition among resellers. The results of the Provider Look-up tool search found that GovConnection Inc. is the only reseller of Vitria products on the NASA SEWP V GWAC. This was confirmed via the RFI as GovConnection Inc. was the only company that responded to the RFI. Further, the Contract Specialist contacted Vitria directly and it was confirmed that GovConnection Inc. is the only current reseller of Vitria products.

9. Other Facts: None